



*Office of Laboratory Licensure,
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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: October 15, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Wesley B. Press, Acting Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #59
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. Section 4.3 of 200.7, rev. 4.4, as well as App. C in the 40 CFR, Section 5.1.3, allow the buffering of samples when there are chemical interferences. Using a buffer as a matrix modifier for ICP analyses is acceptable, as long as the laboratory is adding the buffer to all standards, QC samples and samples, and is able to meet the methods IDC.
2. After discussing the requirement of performing MDL studies for metals in both water and soils with the EPA, it has been agreed, that MDLs for metals on solid matrices is not required. We were told that MDLs are to be reflective of the best case scenario, and that as long as a lab has aqueous MDLs as well as performing the required QC in the method, one should be able to get enough information of the laboratory's sensitivity. MICE (Methods Information and Communication Exchange) informed us that soil matrix MDLs are not normally done due to the background contamination problem, and that the laboratory can just extrapolate soil MDLs from their water MDLs.
3. For GC/MS volatile methods: The BFB tune must be verified before sample analysis. Several labs have been monitoring the BFB tune by processing the BFB surrogate in the sample injected at the 12th hour through the tune program. This is not appropriate. Samples are unknowns and may have interferences or matrix effects. The laboratory must monitor the BFB through a separate injection. SW-846 allows BFB to be monitored in the CCV. ADHS has confirmed the technical validity of this interpretation with the MICE service.
4. Laboratories are required to have current MDLs for each analyte they report (A.A.C. R9-14-613, section B6). This includes each and every Aroclor the lab reports out. Typically these are 1016, 1260, 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248 and 1254. An MDL is considered current if no changes have been made to (1) extraction or analytical procedure, (2) type of columns used, (3) the instrument has not been moved (i. e. to a new lab facility) and (4) other modifications of this type. Once the laboratory has done an initial MDL study, if all parameters remain constant, a laboratory might be able to go two or three years before doing another MDL study. To verify that the MDL study is still current, the laboratory may choose to periodically analyze an LCS at the reporting limit.

5. Arizona Department of Health Services/Bureau of Laboratory Services has some senior level Chemist positions open in their Environmental Organic section and a Quality Assurance Coordinator's position in their Technical Resources and Training section. If interested, fax your resume to Prabha Acharya @ (602) 255-1070. If you need more information about the positions, please call Prabha Acharya @ (602) 255-3454 Ext. 221 or Pat Adler @ (602) 542-6120.
6. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's QA/QC Unit has posted ADEQ's 5035 draft policy on its Web Page at www.adeq.state.az.us. Click on "Directors Office" and then on "Quality Assurance". Select "Analytical Methods Update" and then "Draft Policy- Implementation of EPA Method 5035-Soil Preparation for EPA Methods 8015B, 8021 and 8260B". Once this policy is promulgated it will be used for compliance testing of VOC's in soil in Arizona. ADEQ is accepting comments from the environmental laboratory community regarding ADEQ's Method 5035 policy as it is currently drafted through Sunday, October 31, 1999. Please e-mail all correspondence to: carlson.kenyon@ev.state.az.us or mail to:
- AZ Dept. of Environmental Quality
c/o Kenyon C. Carlson, Manager
QA/QC Unit S1360C
3033 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2809**
7. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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